

Cascade Valley	Chapel Hill	Downtown	East Akron	Ellet
Fairlawn Heights	Firestone Park	Goodyear Heights	Highland Square	Kenmore
Lane - Wooster	Merriman Valley	Middlebury	North Hill	Northwest Akron
Rolling Acres	South Akron	Summit Lake	University Park	Wallhaven
West Akron				

**2008 AKRON HISTORY TRAILS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

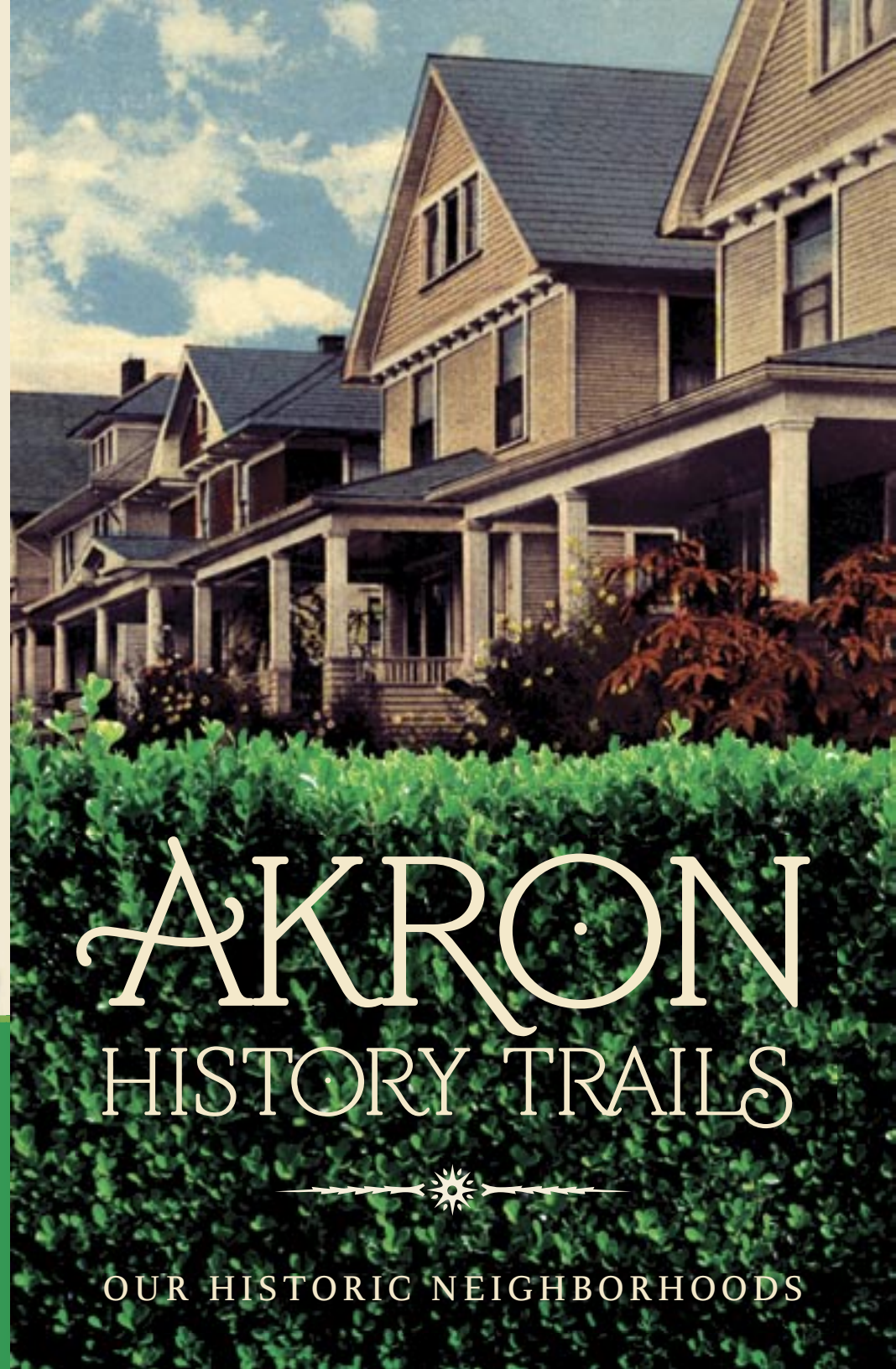
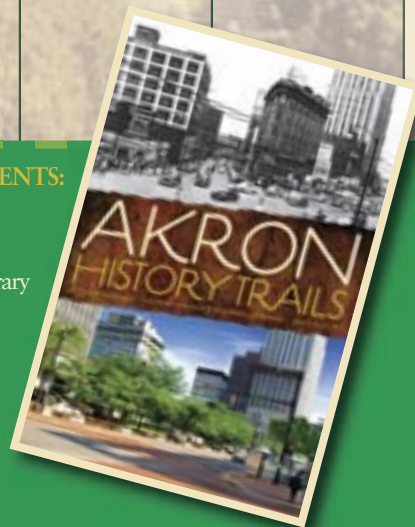
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Akron Publishing Company

**Contemporary Photos:** Bruce Ford

Special thanks to each of our contributing organizations.

Thank you to the nearly 100 families who completed the 2007 history trails passport (shown at right.)



# AKRON

## HISTORY TRAILS



OUR HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS



# From Mayor Don Plusquellic



## Welcome to the History of Akron's Great Neighborhoods!

It's one reason why judges from the National Civic League named us an All America City in June, 2008.

Akron's first "neighborhood" was at Middlebury, near the intersection of the Little Cuyahoga River and what is today Case Avenue.

In 1811, two settlers traveled for three months to make the journey from the east. Paul Williams raised his family in a farmhouse where Broadway and Buchtel intersect in downtown Akron today; and Major Miner Spicer built his farmhouse in what is today's University Park neighborhood.

German immigrants arrived later, built a church (St. Bernard's) and a neighborhood later called "Goosetown," in today's South Akron.

The first African Americans – either released from slavery by their masters, or traveling the Underground Railroad away from their masters – settled in what we call the Cascade Valley today, near Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Along the way, we became known as a bastion of abolition, women's rights, temperance, the birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous, and a 19th century powerhouse that drove movements in business, labor, and education reform.

In 2006, Akron's first "History Trails" project involved more than 8,000 people as they helped us celebrate the 75th anniversary of some of Akron's landmark buildings. In 2007, that number increased to almost 15,000 who walked the trails marked by monuments and historic icons of industry and culture. Participants received stamps in their "passports," with the challenge of getting a stamp for each historic site they visited. Those who completed the passport received valuable history-related prizes.

This year, you can obtain stamps in the passport printed on the back cover of this book. More important, this is a guide to learning how Akron's great neighborhoods have developed and grown, and how they sustain our residents today.

In May, 2008, Akron was named to the list of "The 100 Best Places to Raise a Family," by *Best Life* magazine, and the only Ohio city to rank in the top 50. In December, 2007, the author of *Places Rated Almanac* placed Akron as 5th in the country of "Where to Educate Your Children" in a top-20 list published in *Forbes* magazine.

Use this guide to take your children on a tour of Akron, in ways they may have never seen our city before. And if you can bring a grandparent, aunt, or uncle along – so much the better. After all, we're celebrating the 6th generation of our success!

Don Plusquellic  
Mayor of Akron



Front cover image: Hurlburt Avenue in Highland Square, ca. 1912.

Opposite Top: Young's Hotel in Kenmore. Opposite: Rotaynah sculpture by Peter Toth in Northwest Akron.



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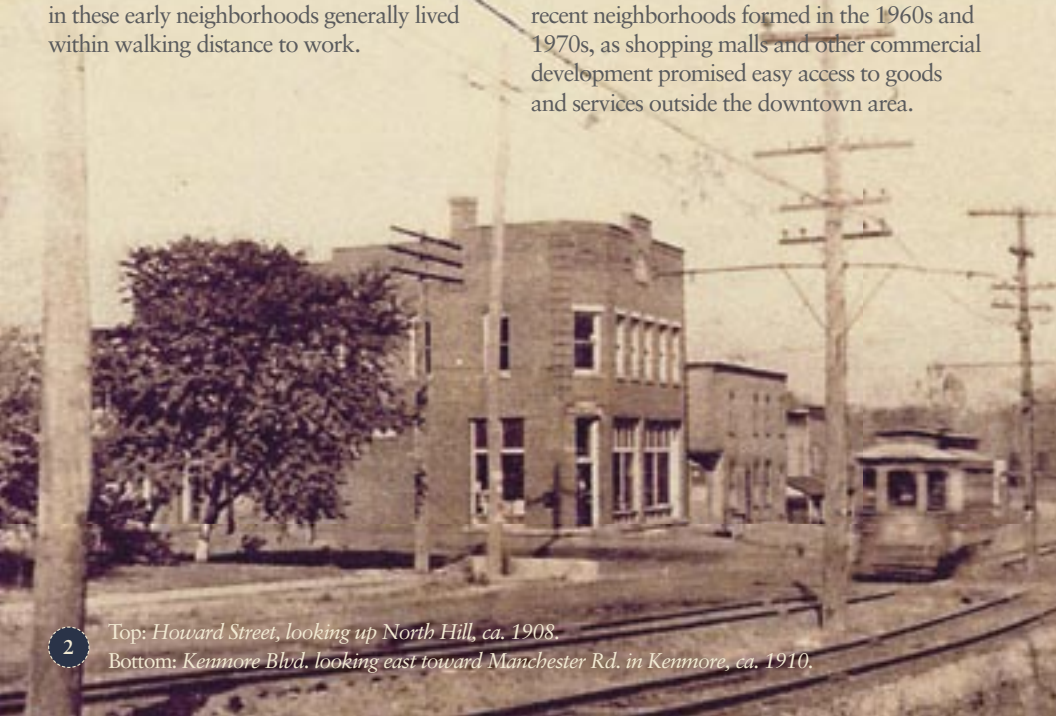


## Akron History Trails: Akron's First Neighborhoods



Akron's earliest neighborhoods grew up around the natural resources that provided opportunities for industry, such as deposits of coal and clay, along with rivers and streams that could provide the power needed for milling. When the canals were built through Akron, they not only provided an important means of transportation, but also promised a steady stream of customers for businesses like taverns, hotels and general stores. Residents in these early neighborhoods generally lived within walking distance to work.

That changed in the late 1800s, as trolley lines and bridges spanned hills and valleys, allowing for the formation of new neighborhoods further from the industrial centers. Around WWI, as the rubber industry thrived and Akron became the fastest growing city in the nation, more neighborhoods sprung up, some to house the newly arrived workers and others to provide an escape from the noise and dirt of the factories for executives. Akron's most recent neighborhoods formed in the 1960s and 1970s, as shopping malls and other commercial development promised easy access to goods and services outside the downtown area.



Top: Howard Street, looking up North Hill, ca. 1908.

Bottom: Kenmore Blvd. looking east toward Manchester Rd. in Kenmore, ca. 1910.

## Akron History Trails: Cultural Enclaves

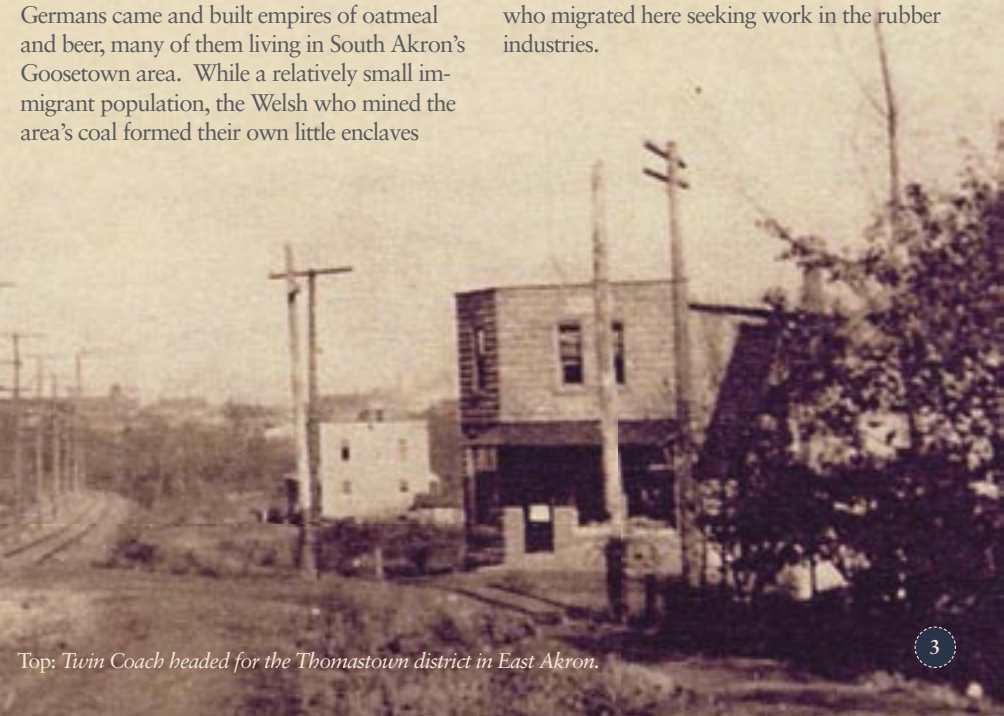


Immigrants who came to the United States seeking a better life found plenty of economic opportunity in Akron. Early in Akron's history, the Irish came to help build the canals. Italians settled in the North Hill area, making their marks in the stone masonry in some of Akron's most distinctive buildings as well as in the food served up at some of the most popular restaurants.

Germans came and built empires of oatmeal and beer, many of them living in South Akron's Goosetown area. While a relatively small immigrant population, the Welsh who mined the area's coal formed their own little enclaves

within larger neighborhoods, such as Thomastown in East Akron. Greek immigrants opened confectionaries and other shops at Five Points, and a few of Akron's larger potato chip factories were owned by Lebanese immigrants.

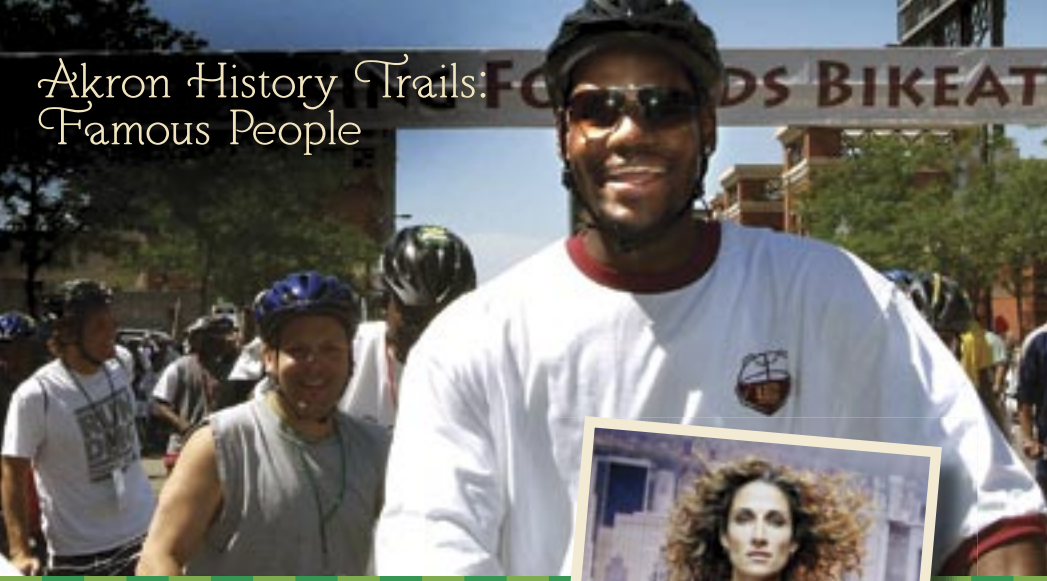
Akron also drew residents from elsewhere in the United States, from the Connecticut Yankees who opened the area for development to the West Virginians and Southerners who migrated here seeking work in the rubber industries.



Top: Twin Coach headed for the Thomastown district in East Akron.



## Akron History Trails: Famous People



Akron neighborhoods have been home to their fair share of famous residents.

Firestone High School alumni include astronaut Judith Resnick, *CSI:NY* star Melina Kanakaredes, and rocker and now restaurateur Chrissie Hynde, who opened the VegiTerranean in the Northside Lofts last year.

Lane-Wooster was the birthplace of Pulitzer-prize winning poet Rita Dove, whose father, Ray Dove, became the first African American chemist for Goodyear.

Before playing for the Cleveland Cavaliers, LeBron James spent part of his childhood in West Akron and attended



St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Cascade Valley. Cascade Valley is also the birthplace of retired broadcaster Hugh Downs of *The Today Show* and *20/20* fame.

Middlebury was the birthplace of country singer-songwriter David Allan Coe, best known to some for the memorable lyrics of "Take This Job and Shove It."

Olympic gold- and silver-medal-winning sprinter Harry "Butch" Reynolds is a native of South Akron and a 1983 graduate of the neighborhood's Archbishop Hoban High School.

Country Music Hall of Famer Louis Marshall Jones, or "Grandpa Jones," known to many from the 1970s television variety show *Hee Haw*, grew up in Akron's Highland Square neighborhood, attending West High School.

Top: NBA star LeBron James.

Inset: Actress Melina Kanakaredes.

Left: Rocker Chrissie Hynde.

## Akron History Trails: Neighborhood Flavor

Akron's eating establishments are known across northeast Ohio and reflect the diverse traditions and tastes of its residents.

East Akron's New Era Restaurant offers Eastern European-style dishes, including its signature chicken paprikash. Homemade Italian fare can be found around the City at establishments like Kenmore's Casa Mia, North Hill's Dantino's Restaurant, or Papa Joe's in Merriman Valley.

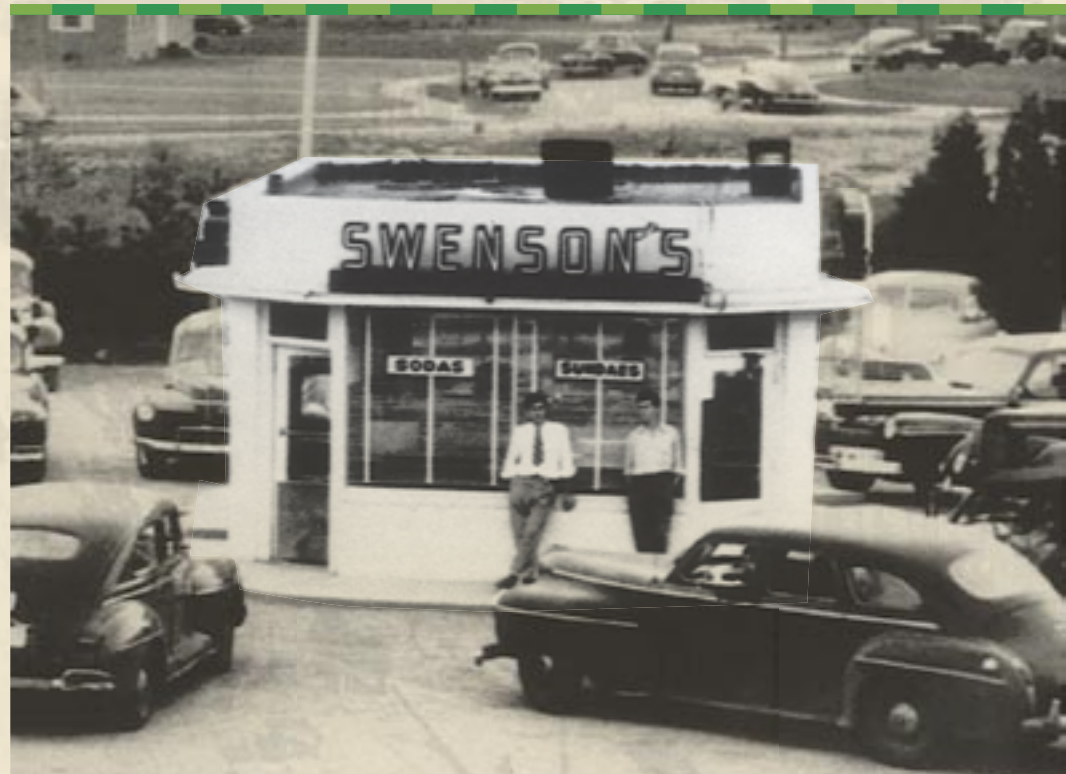
Customers at Gus's Chalet in Chapel Hill can choose from Greek

specialties or American fare, while those with a taste for barbecue can head over to Arnold's Rib House on North Hill.



Among downtown's many dining options are the House of Hunan, offering the Akron Roll, and KD's Bistro @ Northside, which serves up Southern classics. Other hearty meals are available at Duffy's Restaurant in Ellet.

For dessert, one can choose from the frozen custard at Strickland's in Ellet, ice cream at Mary Coyle's in Highland Square or the chocolate treats at Ken Stewart's Grille in Wallhaven.



Inset: A treat from Mary Coyle's in Highland Square.

Bottom: Original Swensons Restaurant in Wallhaven.



## Akron History Trails: Local Architecture

Akron has a rich diversity of architectural styles. The Summit County Historical Society's 1982 book *Rehab Akron* identifies examples of eight styles of houses popular from 1870 to 1930, some of which are shown here.

Among the few surviving pre-Civil War (pre 1861) houses are the Richard Howe House, which stood at the corner of East Exchange and South High Streets for 172 years. In June, 2008 it was re-located to the corner of West Exchange and Water Streets to become headquarters of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition. The Perkins Stone Mansion at the corner of South Portage Path and Copley Road and the John Brown House at the corner of Copley and Diagonal Roads, which has been considerably altered, also predate the Civil War.



Two individual houses deserve special mention. At 60 Fir Hill (University Park) is the Second Empire Italianate house formerly occupied by the Hower Family and now owned by The University of Akron. Frank and Gertrude Seiberling's magnificent residence, Stan Hywet Hall, at 714 North Portage Path (Northwest Akron), is Akron's only residence identified as a National Historic Landmark.

One of Akron's residential districts appears on the National Register of Historic Places the Hall Park Allotment Historic District (Highland Square).

Top: Illustration of a bungalow from Rehab Akron.

Left: Illustration of a Queen Anne style home from Rehab Akron.

Below: Goodyear Heights bungalow, ca. 1921.



## Akron History Trails: Bibliography

Books & Collections available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library

City of Akron, Dept. of Urban Planning and Development *Akron Historic Landmark Survey*  
 Gardner, Richard *Memories of Ellet*  
 Grismer, Karl H. *Akron and Summit County*  
 Kaplan, Helga *Century of Adjustment: a History of the Akron Jewish Community, 1865-1975*  
 Lane, Samuel *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*  
 Lewis, Clarice Finely *A History of Firestone Park*  
 Love, Steve *Wheels of Fortune: The Story of Rubber in Akron*  
 McClain, Shirla *The Contributions of Blacks in Akron*  
 Musarra, Russ *Walks around Akron: Rediscovering a City in Transition*  
 Regional Church Planning Office *The Church in Akron*  
 Special Collections Division, Akron-Summit County Public Library *Local Music Collection*  
 Special Collections Division, Akron-Summit County Public Library  
 Neighborhood History Project Collection  
 Summit County Historical Society *Rehab Akron*

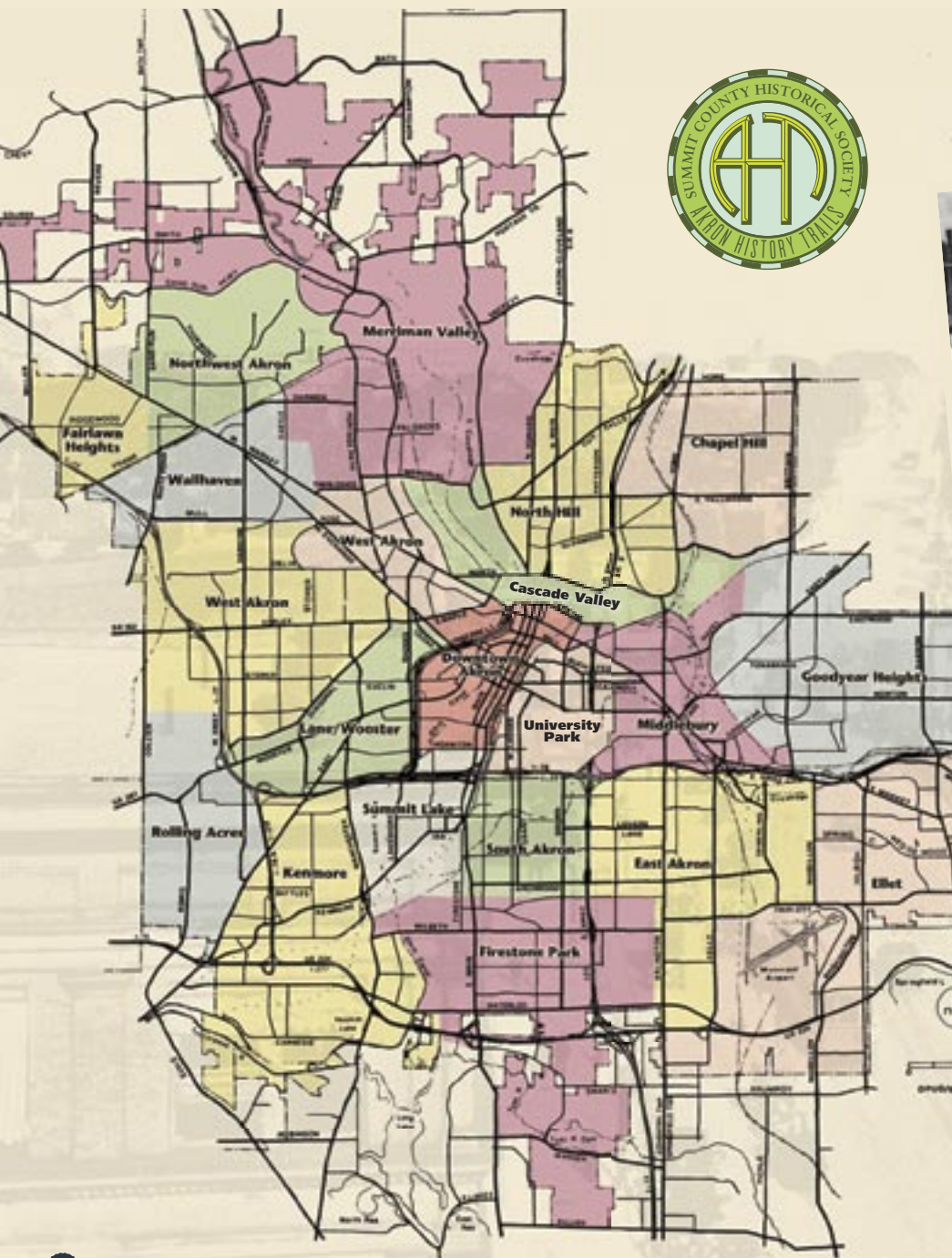
## Websites

History of Akron & Summit County: [www.akronhistory.org](http://www.akronhistory.org)  
 Highland Square website: [www.highlandsquare.org](http://www.highlandsquare.org)  
 City of Akron History : <http://ci.akron.oh.us/history/index.htm>  
 Kenmore Historical Society: [www.kenmorehistorical.org](http://www.kenmorehistorical.org)  
 Akron-Summit County Public Library Local History Database:  
[www.akronlibrary.org/DBS/SpecCollDB/Default.aspx](http://www.akronlibrary.org/DBS/SpecCollDB/Default.aspx)  
 North Hill Akron website: [www.northhillakron.org](http://www.northhillakron.org)  
 Summit Memory Project: [www.SummitMemory.org](http://www.SummitMemory.org)  
 Shirla McClain's *The Contributions of Blacks in Akron*:  
[www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/OnlineBooks/onlinebks.html](http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/OnlineBooks/onlinebks.html)

Top: Perkins Stone Mansion in West Akron.



# Akron History Trails: Area Map



## Historic Neighborhoods: Cascade Valley



This neighborhood just north of downtown lies under the All-America Bridge in the valley of the Little Cuyahoga River. It developed around the Ohio & Erie Canal and the milling industry, including oatmeal king Ferdinand Schumacher's Cascade Mills.

In 1940, Akron's first major public housing development was built here - Elizabeth Park Homes. In 2004, AMHA demolished 124 units, and with a Hope VI grant from the federal government, Community Builders, Inc. erected 242 new rental units and 27 for-sale homes, with a value of over \$60 million.

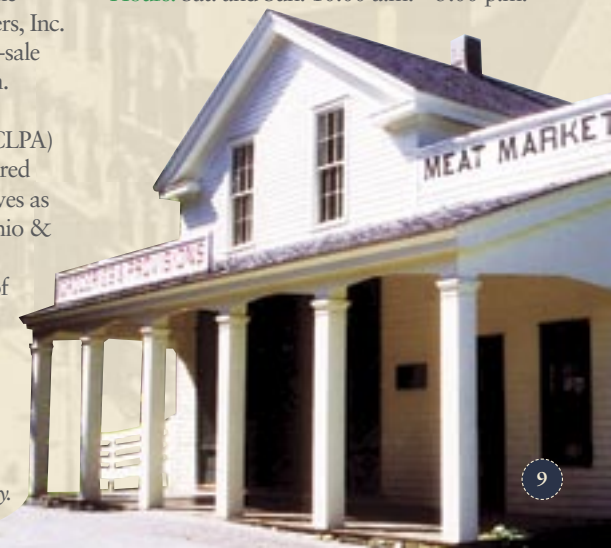
The Cascade Locks Park Association (CLPA) and its partner organizations have restored the Mustill Store and House, which serves as Akron's primary visitor center in the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway, and continue to work on the development of the Cascade Mills site, the Towpath Trail and the Howard Street corridor.

Cascade Valley is also home to the Cascade Locks Historic District, to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, to well-known restaurants Luigi's and VegiTerranean, to the Northside Lofts, Cascade Village and Hickory Street residential developments, and to several art galleries that are featured in art walks held each month.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Mustill Store**  
248 Ferndale Street  
Akron, Ohio 44304  
**Phone:** (330) 374-5625  
[www.cascadelocks.org](http://www.cascadelocks.org)

**Hours:** Sat. and Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



**Top:** Cascade Valley.

**Inset:** Cascade Mills.

**Bottom:** The Mustill Store as it appears today.



## Historic Neighborhoods: Chapel Hill/Rolling Acres

While not officially neighborhoods, these residential areas cropped up along the edges of Akron when shopping malls were developed there in the 1960s and 1970s.

Chapel Hill Mall is the result of the vision of the Buchholzer family. Julius Johannes “JJ” Buchholzer owned Hower’s Department Store in East Akron. Anticipating the city’s growth, the Buchholzers felt their farmland in northeast Akron would be a great location for another Hower’s store. Plans expanded, and in 1965, JJ’s son, Richard Buchholzer, and Forest City Enterprises began construction of the Chapel Hill Mall at the corner of Howe Avenue and Brittain Road.

The mall opened on October 12, 1967. Renovations in 1994 and 1995 included new floors and lighting and the addition of a full-size carousel and fountain. Chattanooga, Tennessee firm CBL & Associates Properties, Inc. purchased the mall in 2004.

Rolling Acres mall in southwest Akron on Romig Road was developed in 1975, also by Buchholzer and Forest City. Bordered by Greenlawn Cemetery on the south, a small

development of housing on Romig Road was built in the 1980s. Without adequate expressway access, mall stores began to fail, and its uses continue to evolve. Mud Run Golf Course to the east, opened in 2003 by the City of Akron, is the finest First Tee course for youth in the U.S. Soon, new housing will be developed around the golf course. The Romig Road corridor is becoming home to light industrial and warehouse concerns.



### Passport Stamp Locations:

#### Mr. Bulky’s Foods

434 Howe Avenue  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221  
**Phone:** (330) 928-5966

**Hours:** Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

#### Rolling Acres – Mud Run Golf Course Clubhouse

2000 South Hawkins Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44314  
**Phone:** (330) 375-2728

**Hours:** Everyday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
(Season & weather permitting.  
Call ahead if in doubt.)

**Inset:** JJ Buchholzer in 1934.

**Below:** The carousel at Chapel Hill Mall.



## Historic Neighborhoods: Downtown



The town of Akron was founded in 1825 on land owned by General Simon Perkins and Paul Williams, whose family was the only one living within its boundaries. The town was a square plot with 302 numbered parcels and a public square that came to be known as Perkins Square at the center. The square is located in front of Children’s Hospital Medical Center of Akron today and contains historical markers of the original Akron.

The canal was routed through the new town on a north-south axis and through two canal basins in the southeast corner of Akron, near present-day Main Street and Canal Place.

Akron completed the first of its many additions in 1836, joining with the town to the north, which was founded as Cascade and later known as North Akron. It became a city in 1865 and continued to expand in all directions, particularly in the early decades of the 1900s. Today, a number of Akron’s historical structures have been adapted for new uses and coexist nicely with more recent additions to the skyline.

Fewer than 500 people reside in downtown – at the Landings and Townhomes at Canal Park; the Northside lofts and townhomes;

**Above:** Family fun at Lock 3 Park.

**Inset:** Akron Savings & Loan Building ca. 1919.

and the apartments at Canal Square. In 2008, a development of 435 units for University students will open on Main Street between Exchange and Cedar, and 77 units are being built adjacent to the Civic Theatre.

### Passport Stamp Location:

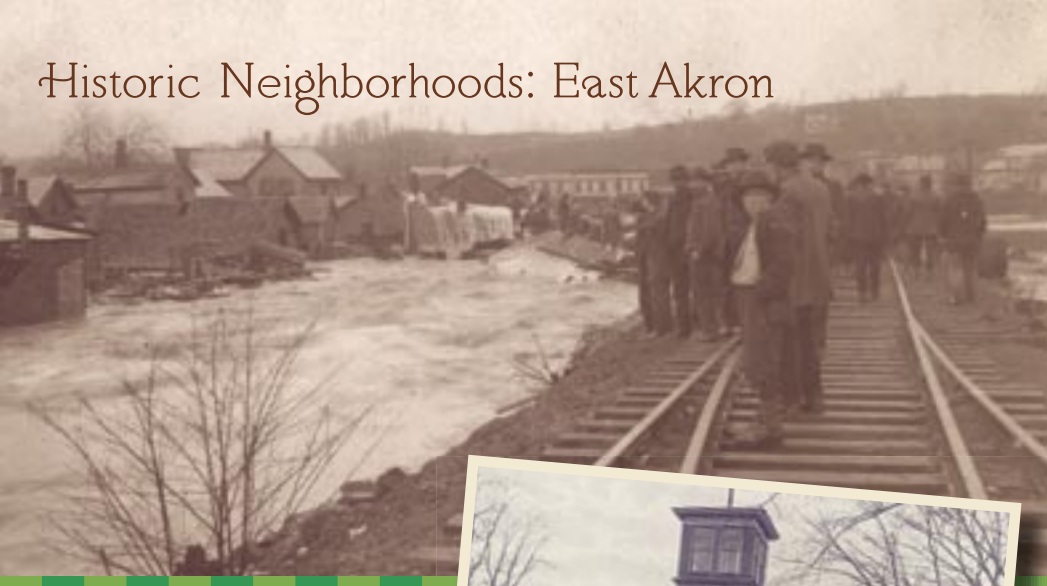
Akron-Summit County Public Library  
Main Library / Special Collections Div.  
60 South High Street  
Akron, Ohio 44326 **Phone:** (330) 643-9030

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



## Historic Neighborhoods: East Akron



In the southeast corner of the Akron Central Interchange lies East Akron, a neighborhood of nearly 14,000 people. Welsh immigrants settled here in the Thomastown area to work the coal mines following the Civil War. European immigrants flocked to Akron in the early 20th century, prompting 600 church women to establish the Akron Missionary Union, Akron's only settlement house, in this neighborhood in 1911. The Union later served Appalachians arriving in the 1940s and 1950s and became the East Akron Community House (EACH).

Still the hub of the community, EACH now sits at the corner of South Arlington Street and McKinley Avenue and provides programs that empower the neighborhood to solve its problems.

The City of Akron and groups like the East Akron Neighborhood Development Corp. have worked to build and rehabilitate houses in the area. In 2004, the neighborhood's first full-service grocery store in over a decade, Dave's Supermarket, opened its doors.

The Goodyear Akron Riverwalk Project, a plan to create a new corporate headquarters for Goodyear, will bring additional retail, restaurant and lodging facilities to East Akron.

### Passport Stamp Location:

East Akron Cemetery  
1135 East Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44305  
Phone: (330) 784-7238

### Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturdays by Appointment

Opposite Top: Ellet Community Center.

Opposite Inset: Minnie Ellet.

Opposite Bottom: A modern Soap Box Derby racer.

## Historic Neighborhoods: Ellet



Located in Akron's southeast corner, Ellet still has the feel of a small town, with neat houses, well-paved streets, and tree-shaded sidewalks. It was originally the northwest corner of Springfield Township and was known as North Springfield or Springfield Center. In 1918, it was named after prominent townsman David Ellet, whose daughter Minnie became known for her saloon-busting antics.

Post-war rubber workers in search of housing moved to Ellet, transforming its rural farmland into a city neighborhood. Needing city services, residents petitioned for annexation to Akron and received it in 1929.

Ellet is a conservative working-class neighborhood built around home and family that has kept up with the times. Revitalized by new housing development and new families, its population has grown without falling victim to over-commercialization.

Among Ellet's landmarks are Derby Downs, the Rubber

Bowl, the Airdock, Akron Fulton International Airport, Strickland's frozen custard stand, and Eastgate Plaza, which opened in the 1950s as one of Akron's first strip plazas and remains a hub of neighborhood commerce.

### Passport Stamp Location:

Ellet Community Center

2449 Wedgewood Drive  
Akron, Ohio 44312  
Phone: (330) 375-2809

### Hours:

Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.





## Historic Neighborhoods: Fairlawn Heights



Located in northwest Akron, Fairlawn Heights owes its development to Frank A. Seiberling, co-founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Shortly after developing Goodyear Heights in east Akron and while constructing his estate, Stan Hywet, Seiberling purchased land in west Akron with specific plans in mind.

In 1915, Seiberling established the Fairlawn Heights Company. To design the development, he selected renowned landscape architect Warren H. Manning, of Boston, the same architect who had worked on Goodyear Heights and Stan Hywet. Although most of the allotment was south of West Market Street, it also included the Fairlawn Heights Golf Club (now the Fairlawn Country Club), which opened in 1919, and lots near the Golf Club.

Fairlawn Heights has not changed much from Seiberling's original concept. The area was annexed by the City of Akron in 1932, but its residents continue to enjoy what has often been described as "country living in a city setting."



### Passport Stamp Location:

**West Side Bakery**  
2303 West Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44313  
**Phone:** (330) 836-4101  
[www.thewestsidebakery.com](http://www.thewestsidebakery.com)

### Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



## Historic Neighborhoods: Firestone Park



In 1915, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company purchased 1,000 acres of farmland just south and southeast of the factory located near the intersection of South Main Street and Cole Avenue. The purchase was part of a plan by Harvey S. Firestone to provide housing for employees of the rubber factory. The same year, that section of Coventry Township was annexed to Akron.

Firestone hired landscape architect Alling DeForest from Rochester, New York, who had previously worked on his Harbel Manor estate on West Market Street, to work on the new neighborhood. DeForest designed the community around a public park shaped like the original Firestone shield emblem. Included in the plans were a community center, churches, schools and businesses.

Within a year, 600 homes of 23 designs had been constructed upon the former farmland, with managers and workers alike choosing to build here. Today, the entire neighborhood is considered a historic landmark, along with its Firestone County Club, Firestone Stadium, Harvey S. Firestone Memorial and Research Center, and Bridgestone Firestone Akron Technical Center.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Akron-Summit County Public Library**  
**Firestone Park Branch Library**  
1486 Aster Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44301   
**Phone:** (330) 724-2126

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Closed



**Top:** Spring trees in Firestone Park .

**Inset:** Harvey S. Firestone.

**Bottom:** Historic homes in Firestone Park.



## Historic Neighborhoods: Goodyear Heights



Goodyear President Frank A. Seiberling developed Goodyear Heights, which lies north and east of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. complex, as convenient, comfortable, and affordable housing for company employees.

The project began in 1913 and progressed in three phases to meet the increasing housing demand during the World War I period, when Akron was the fastest growing city in the United States, its population jumping from 69,000 in 1910 to 208,000 in 1920.

Seiberling employed noted Boston landscape architect Warren H. Manning, who was also working on his west Akron estate, Stan Hywet,

to design Goodyear Heights. Seiberling also hired the New York architectural firm of Mann and McNeille to design a variety of house plans from which buyers could choose. Buyers supplying their own plans had to submit them for review.

Goodyear employees could acquire lots and houses at cost, with a variety of favorable payment plans. The project was so successful that, by 1920, the Heights had over 4,000 residents.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Akron-Summit County Public Library**  
**Goodyear Heights Branch Library**

60 Goodyear Boulevard  
Akron, Ohio 44305-4487

Phone: (330) 784-7522

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Closed



## Historic Neighborhoods: Highland Square



Highland Square, like Northwest Akron, developed as a residential neighborhood for Akron industrial leaders who moved from the Fir Hill area to escape the noise and pollution of the nearby rubber factories. As Akron's population began to soar in the early 1900s, the fine homes of the neighborhood were joined by upscale apartment buildings.

When wealthy industrialists later moved further west, some of the homes they left behind were torn down to make way for businesses or were converted into apartments. The 1950s and 1960s marked a decline for the neighborhood, but by the mid-1970s, a historic preservation movement brought renewed interest and energy to the area. Today, the efforts are continued by the Highland Square Neighborhood Association, an active coalition of residents and business owners working to revitalize the area and help build a strong community through events such as Art in the Square and Holidays in the Square.

Among the neighborhood's many well-known sites are the Tangier Restaurant & Cabaret, Mary Coyle Ice Cream Parlor and Restaurant, the Highland

Theater, Temple Israel and Dr. Bob's House, former home of the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Akron-Summit County Public Library**  
**Highland Square Branch Library**

807 West Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44303-1010

Phone: (330) 376-2927

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Closed



## Historic Neighborhoods: Kenmore



Kenmore's first white settlers arrived in the early 1800s, building sawmills, gristmills and a glass factory near Nesmith Lake, the Ohio & Erie Canal and the southern terminus of the Portage Path.

Homebuilding skyrocketed in the neighborhood in the late 1800s, after the Northern Ohio Traction & Light Co. (N.O.T.&L.) interurban railway came through town, providing easy transportation between the neighborhood and downtown Akron. The Akron Realty Co. bought land along Kenmore Boulevard, the right of way for a new trolley line between Akron and Barberton, and began building homes for Akron's rubber workers in 1901.

Kenmore incorporated as a village in 1908 and was originally part of Coventry Township. Like Akron as a whole, the area experienced a large growth in population between 1910 and 1920 and became a city in 1922. It was annexed to the City of Akron in 1928.

Kenmore is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. For more information on the history of the neighborhood, historic photographs, and centennial events, visit the website of the Kenmore Historical Society at: [www.kenmorehistorical.org](http://www.kenmorehistorical.org).

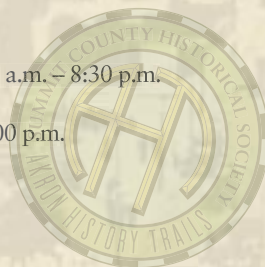


### Passport Stamp Location:

Akron-Summit County Public Library  
Kenmore Branch Library  
2200 14th Street Southwest  
Akron, Ohio 44314-2302  
Phone: (330) 745-6126

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Closed



## Historic Neighborhoods: Lane~Wooster



This neighborhood gets its name from Samuel A. Lane, who was mayor of Akron from 1881-1882, and Wooster Avenue (now called Odom Boulevard), which forms part of its northern boundary.

In the early 19th century, Wooster Avenue was rural. Jewish families began arriving to the neighborhood by the 1890s. By 1920, it had the largest concentration of Jews in Akron, with at least three synagogues and many Jewish-owned businesses. Many Jews moved west in the 1930s and 1940s as the Copley Road area developed. Around the same time, African Americans who had moved from the South to work in the rubber industry purchased homes and established businesses here.

For several days in July 1968, racial disturbances rocked the city. For some, this marked the beginning of the area's decline as it, like so

many urban neighborhoods, witnessed the closing of schools and businesses.

The neighborhood has seen a renaissance over the last decade, including the following projects: the new Lane Field athletic complex, Miller South School for the Performing Arts, the Odom branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, the Helen Arnold Community Learning Center, and the new offices of the Akron Urban League. The Akron Zoo has invested \$19 million in new attractions, and AMHA is building 172 modern public housing units as part of the \$80 million Edgewood Homes development.

### Passport Stamp Location:

Akron-Summit County Public Library  
Odom Boulevard Branch Library  
600 Vernon Odom Boulevard  
Akron, Ohio 44307-1828   
Phone: (330) 434-8726

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Closed

Top: Lane Field Playground.

Inset: Akron Mayor and Historian Samuel A. Lane.



## Historic Neighborhoods: Merriman Valley



The Merriman Valley neighborhood, also called simply The Valley, was originally known as Old Portage because it marked the beginning of the eight-mile Portage Path between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas Rivers on which Native Americans would portage, or carry, their canoes.

Three present-day markers of the Portage Path are clearly visible at the intersection of Merriman and Akron-Peninsula Roads—a bronze statue of a Native American carrying a canoe, a bronze plaque attached to a large granite boulder and one of the 50 cast bronze broadblade trail markers that mark the path along its eight miles through Akron. A much older sign of the area's Native American heritage stands at the southern tip of the neighborhood, in the Chuckery area of Cascade Valley Park—the 300-year-old Signal Tree, a burr oak with branches bent to resemble two arms bent upward at the elbow that served as a trail marker.

Commercial development of the area began around 1959, and young professionals quickly filled the apartment buildings and condominiums built here in the early 1970s.

The Valley is now filled with specialty shops, restaurants and other businesses and is home to the Weathervane Community Playhouse.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Freshway Market**

1496 North Portage Path

Akron, Ohio 44313

**Phone:** (330) 836-3328

### Hours:

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

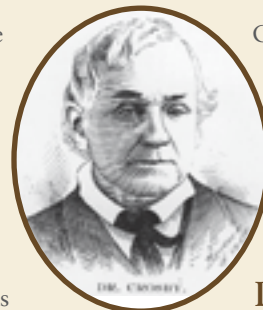


## Historic Neighborhoods: Middlebury

Middlebury developed around a mill built by Joseph Hart on land that he purchased in 1807. When Akron was being platted in 1825, Middlebury was already a thriving commercial center.

Streets, which is home to both the Akron Fire Department Museum and a small fountain showing two children frolicking in a spray of water.

After the Ohio & Erie Canal came through Akron, entrepreneur Dr. Eliakim Crosby developed a millrace, or channel, connecting Middlebury to Lock 5. The Pennsylvania & Ohio Canal promised more opportunity, but in 1835, the decision was made to route through Akron rather than Middlebury. Middlebury was annexed to Akron in 1872, becoming the Sixth Ward.



Current developments include Middlebury Market, with a full service grocery and additional service and retail establishments, and the new Mason Community Learning Center, which combines the elementary school with a City of Akron Community Center.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Akron Fire History Exhibit**

**Akron Fire Station #2**

952 East Exchange Street

Akron, Ohio 44302

**Phone:** (330) 375-2345 (Mayor's Office)

**Hours:** Daily 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Neighborhood landmarks include Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Remembrance Sculpture Gazebo and Park, and Fire Station #2 at the intersection of East Exchange and Market



Inset: Dr. Eliakim Crosby.

Bottom: The Fountain at Fire Station #2.



## Historic Neighborhoods: North Hill



The development of the North Hill neighborhood began soon after the Akron Traction Co. extended its trolley line up North Howard Street in 1891, finally making the steep hill on the north side of the Little Cuyahoga River navigable. The neighborhood got an even bigger boost on October 12, 1922, when the North Hill Viaduct opened, providing a more convenient connection to downtown Akron.

North Hill became home to many of Akron's immigrants at the time, especially those from Italy and Poland. Their influence can still be felt today at neighborhood sites such as DeVitis Italian Market & Deli, Emidio & Sons Italian Restaurant, The Italian Center, the Polish-American Club and the International Institute, which continues to provide services and courses for immigrants who call Akron home. Other neighborhood landmarks include the Masonic Temple building, St. Thomas Hospital, Swenson's #2 and Waters Park.

When the viaduct was closed due to deterioration in 1977, some businesses in the neighborhood's Temple Square district closed, but the opening of the y-shaped All-America Bridge in 1981 has sparked a business revival.



### Passport Stamp Location:

**DeVitis Italian Market**  
560 East Tallmadge Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310  
**Phone:** (330) 535-2626  
[www.devitis.com](http://www.devitis.com)

### Hours:

Monday – Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Opposite Top: Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, former home of the Seiberlings.*

*Opposite Bottom: Firestone's Harbel Manor.*

## Historic Neighborhoods: Northwest Akron



Northwest Akron became home to a number of rubber executives seeking to escape the noise, smell and dirt of central Akron's rubber factories. Harvey Firestone, Goodyear co-founder Charles W. Seiberling, and M. O'Neil Co. department store founder and General Tire president Michael O'Neil all chose to build along West Market Street.

Perhaps the most famous of these houses of rubber is F.A. Seiberling's Stan Hywet Hall, built in 1915 with grounds designed by Boston landscape architect Warren H. Manning, who also worked on Seiberling's Goodyear Heights and Fairlawn Heights developments. Other homes in the area have been adapted for other uses or razed, such as Harvey "Har" and Idabelle "Bel" Firestone's Harbel Manor, but Stan Hywet has been preserved as a historic home museum.

Other neighborhood landmarks include the Portage County Club and the Rotaynah Indian sculpture, created by Hungarian-born artist and former Akron resident Peter Toth in 1985. Sculpted out of a huge Red Oak, Rotaynah weighs 17 tons and measures 36 feet tall stands. It stands in front of Akron's Fairlawn Elementary School and is the 51st in Toth's "Trail of the Whispering Giants" series of American Indian figures throughout the United States and Canada.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Akron-Summit County Public Library**  
**Northwest Akron Branch Library**  
1720 Shatto Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44313  
**Phone:** (330) 836-1081

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Closed





## Historic Neighborhoods: South Akron



Located south of Downtown and University Park, the neighborhood of South Akron is bordered by I-76 on the north and I-77 on the east.

South Akron developed in the 1880s, with the arrival of immigrants from Germany and Europe's Slavic countries. The area's business district was centered around present-day South and Grant Streets. This neighborhood, to the dismay of many of its residents, became known as Goosetown.

Most of the area within this neighborhood joined the City of Akron as part of the 1900 annexation. In the early decades of the 1900s, its boardinghouses were home to many of those who flocked to the area to find work in the rubber factories, including a young Clark Gable.

The neighborhood's landmarks include the Shiloh Baptist Church and the Jenota Club, and it has an Asian influence around Brown Street and Lovers Lane, thanks to the arrival of immigrants from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos during the last 30 years.



### Passport Stamp Location:

**Fire Station #4**

25 East Thornton Street  
Akron, OH 44311

**Phone:** (330) 375-2345 (Mayor's Office)

### Hours:

Daily 1 – 5 p.m.



## Historic Neighborhoods: Summit Lake



A natural lake, Summit Lake predates the glacial age. It has served the Akron community in a variety of ways over the years.

When the Ohio & Erie Canal was constructed, the lake held a floating towpath along the eastern shore to provide footing for the mules towing the boats. In the late 19th century, it was a source for Akron's water supply and became home to two amusement parks—Lake-side Park on the east and Summit Lake Park (also known as “Beerside” because it served alcohol) on the west. In 1917, Summit Beach Park was established, complete with a dance hall, swimming pool, and rides. Until it closed in 1959, it welcomed many company picnics, family outings, and couples who danced to the sounds of the big bands.

After the closing of Summit Beach, Akron Metropolitan Housing constructed public housing on the site. Today's residents are served by the Summit Lake Community Center and the City's George Sisler baseball field at Summit Lake Park.

### Passport Stamp Location:

**Summit Lake Community Center**

380 West Crosier Street  
Akron, Ohio 44311

**Phone:** (330) 375-2826

### Hours:

Monday & Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Top: Sunrise on Summit Lake.

Bottom: Lakeside Park.



## Historic Neighborhoods: University Park



Located between downtown and Middlebury, University Park encompasses The University of Akron and adjoining areas to the north, east, and south. The neighborhood was called Spicertown after being settled by the Miner Spicer family in 1811, and was annexed by the City of Akron in 1865.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it was home to businessmen like Harvey S. Firestone, Frank A. Seiberling, and John H. Hower. The Firestones and Seiberlings moved to the west side in the 1910s. The Howers remained, and their Victorian mansion is now a museum.

The institution known as The University of Akron began in 1870, when the Ohio Universalist Convention founded Buchtel College, naming it after Akron industrialist and benefactor John R. Buchtel. Buchtel College was converted into the Municipal University of Akron in 1913 and then into a state university in 1967. Since 2000, the New Landscape for Learning renovation campaign has transformed the University campus. Meanwhile, a 50-block area surrounding the campus is being revitalized through the University Park Alliance.

Find out more at: [www.upakron.com](http://www.upakron.com)



### Passport Stamp Location:

#### Hower House

60 Fir Hill, The University of Akron  
Akron, Ohio 44325-2401

Phone: (330) 972-6909

[www3.uakron.edu/howerhse/](http://www3.uakron.edu/howerhse/)

#### Hours:

Wednesday-Saturday 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Closed during the month of January.

**Admission:** \$6.00 adults, \$5.00 senior citizens (65 and older), \$2.00 student and children, with anyone under six free. Free parking.

**Opposite Top:** Arts Expo at Hardesty Park.

**Opposite Inset:** West Point Market.

**Opposite Bottom:** The Wall Hotel.

## Historic Neighborhoods: Wallhaven



Until the 1930s, the area now known as Wallhaven was considered the western edge of the city. Beyond this, the streets were dirt, and beyond that were mostly farms.

Around 1919, a young real estate developer named E. C. Wall acquired property in this area and built a service station. As the area developed, Wall saw the opportunity for new businesses and built the Hotel Wallhaven, a 19-room inn that featured a restaurant, pharmacy, barbershop, and gas station. By 1934, the hotel was joined by Swenson's Drive-in. During the years following World War II, this neighborhood witnessed rapid development, including the construction of Westgate Plaza and new developments of modest cape and ranch style homes.



This thriving and diverse residential community is served by numerous retail businesses including West Point Market, which was established at that location in 1941. Central to the neighborhood is Hardesty Park, a meeting place for neighborhood families, as well as the site of the Akron Arts Expo each summer.

### Passport Stamp Location:

#### West Point Market

1711 West Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44313

Phone: (330) 864-2151

[www.westpointmarket.com](http://www.westpointmarket.com)

#### Hours:

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.





## Historic Neighborhoods: West Akron

In 1832, Col. Simon Perkins, son of Akron co-founder Gen. Simon Perkins, purchased land west of Akron. Three years later, he and his wife, Grace Ingersoll Todd, moved into a farm house at the present-day intersection of Diagonal and Copley Roads and set about building a stone mansion on a hill overlooking Akron.

Their farm house was later inhabited by abolitionist John Brown, and their mansion is the Perkins Stone Mansion. Both sites are presently owned and operated by the Summit County Historical Society.

Perkins Hill, the area around the mansion, became home to some of the Akron's top executives around the turn of the 20th century. In addition to building homes here, they also established the city's first golf club, using the John Brown house as a clubhouse.

One of the mansions built during this time was that of B.F. Goodrich President Bertram G. Work. The structure is now home to the Ak-

ron Woman's City Club and its Coach House Theatre. Other West Akron landmarks include the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority's Saferstein Towers opposite the Perkins Stone Mansion, Perkins Park, Forest Lodge Park, Good Park Golf Club and the Akron Zoo.

### Passport Stamp Location:

Akron-Summit County Public Library

Maple Valley Branch Library

1187 Copley Road

Akron, Ohio 44320-2766

Phone: (330) 864-5721

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Closed



## How to Use the History Trails Passport

You are about to experience “Life in the Past Lane” as you take your journey on Akron's History Trails. On the back cover is your Akron History Trails passport with a block for each of the Akron neighborhoods that we're celebrating this summer.

This digest provides you with a guide to Akron's neighborhoods, as well as information on the passport stamp locations.

Each neighborhood has its own inked stamp that the attendant will place on your passport. Since some locations may be closed when you visit, you may go to the headquarters for the History Trails project, the Akron History

Exhibit at Lock 3, to receive your stamp for each site that you have visited.

Admission to the Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 is FREE, and the exhibit is open every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to close, Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and other times by appointment or by chance. Call 330-375-2500 for more details.

Be aware that admission of \$5 is charged at Lock 3 during special festival events and on Saturday nights. Children under 48 inches tall are always free. Visit [www.lock3live.com](http://www.lock3live.com) for the complete event schedule.

## Akron History Trails Participating Organizations

Akron A.A. Archives

Hower House

Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3  
and American Toy Marble Museum

Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery  
of Akron's Black History

Akron Fire Department

Metro RTA

Akron Police Department

Metro Parks Serving  
Summit County

Akron-Summit County  
Public Library

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

Cascade Locks Park Association

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

TV Dinner Club Museum

Downtown Akron Partnership

The University of Akron  
Archival Services

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[www.summithistory.org](http://www.summithistory.org)

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